

JS-6

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

*In re: Hyundai and Kia Engine  
Litigation*

CASE NO. 8:17-cv-00838-JLS-JDE

Member Cases:  
8:17-cv-01365-JLS-JDE  
8:17-cv-02208-JLS-JDE  
2:18-cv-05255-JLS-JDE  
8:18-cv-00622-JLS-JDE

Related Case:  
8:18-cv-02223-JLS-JDE

**ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT**

1  
2 Plaintiffs Cara Centko, Jenn Lazar, Christopher Stanczak, Rose Creps, James  
3 Kinnick, Wallace Coats, Maryanne Brogan, Andrea Smolek, Danny Dickerson,  
4 Robert Fockler, Amy Franklin, Donald House, Dave Loomis, Joseph McCallister,  
5 Arron Miller, Ricky Montoya, Lynn North, Mark Rice, Reid Schmitt, James Smith,  
6 and Chris Stackhouse (“Plaintiffs” or “Class Representatives”), individually and as  
7 representatives of the Class, entered into a Settlement Agreement with defendants  
8 Hyundai Motor America (“HMA”), Hyundai Motor Company (“HMC”), Kia  
9 Motors Corporation (“KMC”) and Kia Motors America (“KMA”) (collectively the  
10 “Parties”) and moved this Court for an order granting final approval to their class  
11 action settlement. The Court carefully considered the Settlement Agreement  
12 (Doc. 194-1), the motion for final approval, all supporting papers, the arguments of  
13 counsel, and all objections to the proposed settlement, and granted final approval of  
14 the class action settlement on May 10, 2021 (“Final Approval Order,” Docs. 201,  
15 202).

16 Now, in consideration of the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED,  
17 ADJUDGED, AND DECREED as follows:

18 1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action and personal  
19 jurisdiction over the Parties in this action.

20 2. This Order and Final Judgment incorporates herein the Settlement  
21 Agreement (Doc. 194-1), the Preliminary Approval Order (Doc. 132), and the Final  
22 Approval Order (Docs. 201, 202). Capitalized terms not otherwise defined here  
23 shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

24 3. The Class, as defined in the Court’s Final Approval Order, was  
25 certified for settlement purposes only pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23,  
26 and is defined as follows:

27 All owners and lessees of a Class Vehicle who purchased or leased the Class  
28 Vehicle in the United States, including those that were purchased while the

1 owner was abroad on active U.S. military duty, but excluding those purchased  
2 in the U.S. territories and/or abroad.<sup>1</sup>

3 4. The Court found that certification of the Class was appropriate pursuant  
4 to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 for the reasons set forth in the Preliminary  
5 Approval Order and the Final Approval Order. Specifically, the Court concluded  
6 that: (i) the members of the Settlement Class are so numerous as to make joinder  
7 impracticable; (ii) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement  
8 Class, and such questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual  
9 members of the Settlement Class; (iii) the Class Representatives' claims and the  
10 defenses thereto are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class and the defenses  
11 thereto; (iv) the Class Representatives and their counsel can protect and have fairly  
12 and adequately protected the interests of the members of the Settlement Class in the  
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14 <sup>1</sup> The Class excludes all claims for death, personal injury, property damage, and  
15 subrogation. The Class also excludes: (a) Hyundai Motor America ("HMA"),  
16 Hyundai Motor Company ("HMC"), Kia Motors Corporation ("KMC") and Kia  
17 Motors America ("KMA"); (b) any affiliate, parent, or subsidiary of HMA, HMC,  
18 KMC or KMA; any entity in which HMA, HMC, KMC or KMA has a controlling  
19 interest; any officer, director, or employee of HMA, HMC, KMC or KMA; any  
20 successor or assign of HMA, HMC, KMC or KMA; any judge to whom this Action  
21 is assigned, his or her spouse, and all persons within the third degree of relationship  
22 to either of them, as well as the spouses of such persons; (c) individuals and/or  
23 entities who validly and timely opt-out of the settlement; (d) consumers or  
24 businesses that have purchased Class Vehicles previously deemed a total loss (*i.e.*,  
25 salvage or junkyard vehicles) (subject to verification through Carfax or other  
26 means); (e) vehicle owners or lessees who rent or previously rented the Class  
27 Vehicle for the use of third parties; (f) new and used motor vehicle dealerships  
28 engaged in the business of buying, selling or dealing in motor vehicles; (g) banks,  
credit unions or other lienholders; and (h) current or former owners of a Class  
Vehicles who previously released their claims in an individual settlement with  
HMA, HMC, KMC and KMA with respect to the issues raised the Action (for the  
purpose of clarity, individual owners of 2011-2014 Hyundai Sonatas who released  
claims against HMA and HMC in the settlement reached in *Mendoza v. Hyundai  
Motor Company Ltd., et. al.*, Case No. 15-cv-01685-BLF (N.D. Cal.) are not  
excluded from the claims of the Class).

1 Action; and (v) a class action is superior to all other available methods for fairly and  
2 efficiently resolving the Action and provides substantial benefits to the Settlement  
3 Class. The Court therefore determined that this Action satisfied the prerequisites  
4 for class certification for settlement purposes pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil  
5 Procedure 23.

6 5. The Class Notice was disseminated in accordance with the procedures  
7 required by the Court's Orders (Docs. 132, 137), in accordance with applicable law,  
8 and satisfied the requirements of Rule 23(e) and due process and constituted the best  
9 notice practicable for the reasons discussed in the Preliminary Approval Order and  
10 Final Approval Order.

11 6. The Court held a hearing on November 13, 2020 to consider the  
12 fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the proposed Settlement, and adequate  
13 notice of the proceedings was given to Settlement Class Members, with a full  
14 opportunity to participate in the fairness hearing.

15 7. The Court carefully considered and overruled any objections to the  
16 proposed settlement that have been filed.

17 8. The Court concluded that the Settlement is a fair, reasonable and  
18 adequate compromise of the claims asserted in this action for the reasons set forth in  
19 the Final Approval Order. Specifically, the Court considered each of the factors in  
20 Rule 23(e)(2) and each of the eight factors set forth in *Staton v. Boeing Co.*, 327  
21 F.3d 938, 959 (9th Cir. 2003). The factors the Court considered included: "(1) the  
22 strength of plaintiffs' case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration of  
23 further litigation; (3) the risk of maintaining class action status throughout the trial;  
24 (4) the amount offered in settlement; (5) the extent of discovery completed, and the  
25 stage of the proceedings; (6) the experience and views of counsel; (7) the presence  
26 of a governmental participant; and (8) the reaction of the class members to the  
27 proposed settlement." *Id.* The Court found the factors supported final approval.

1           9.     The Court further carefully considered Plaintiffs' request for (1)  
2 \$6,900,000 in attorneys' fees to Class Counsel; (2) actual costs up to \$175,000 to  
3 Class Counsel for reimbursement of litigation expenses; and (3) \$3,500 to each  
4 Plaintiff as service awards in connection with this Action (as defined in the  
5 Settlement Agreement) (Fees Mot., Doc. 139).

6           10.    The Court concluded the requested attorneys' fees, costs, and service  
7 awards are reasonable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and awarded them  
8 to Plaintiffs and Class Counsel.

9           11.    If the Final Approval Order is set aside, materially modified, or  
10 overturned by this Court or on appeal, and is not fully reinstated on further appeal,  
11 this Order certifying a Settlement Class shall be vacated *nunc pro tunc*.

12           12.    All Parties are bound by the Final Approval Order, this Order and Final  
13 Judgment, and the Settlement Agreement.

14           13.    All Class members, except those who timely opted out (Doc. 191-1),  
15 are bound by the Final Approval Order and this Order and Final Judgment.

16           14.    The Court dismisses, on the merits and with prejudice, the above-  
17 captioned action and all claims currently pending before it belonging to Class  
18 members who did not request exclusion from the Class in the time and manner  
19 provided for in the Class Notice ("Settlement Class Members").

20           15.    As of the Effective Date of the Settlement Agreement, Releasors (as  
21 defined in the Settlement Agreement) irrevocably release, waive, and discharge any  
22 and all past, present, and future liabilities, claims, causes of action, legal claims,  
23 damages, costs, attorneys' fees, losses, or demands that have been brought or could  
24 have been brought, whether known or unknown, existing or potential, or suspected  
25 or unsuspected relating to Class Vehicles against Releasees (as defined in the  
26 Settlement Agreement), whether or not specifically named herein, asserted or  
27 unasserted, under or pursuant to any statute, regulation, common law, or equitable  
28 principle, based on (i) the facts alleged in any complaint filed in the Action and all

1 legal claims of whatever type or description arising out of, that may have arisen as a  
2 result of, or which could have been brought based on, any of the facts, acts, events,  
3 transactions, occurrences, courses of conduct, representations, omissions,  
4 circumstances or other matters pleaded in complaints filed in the Action, (ii) the  
5 release described in section (i) includes claims related to issues of oil consumption,  
6 oil maintenance, and vehicle fires originating in the engine compartment that are  
7 covered by and remedied under the Lifetime Warranty and other benefits described  
8 in Sections II.A through II.H (including the Lifetime Warranty, Repair  
9 Reimbursements, Other Repair Related Reimbursements, Inconvenience Due to  
10 Repair Delays, Loss of Value for Sold or Traded-In Vehicles due to a Loss Event,  
11 Loss of Vehicle By Engine Fire, and Rebate Program) of the Settlement Agreement.  
12 The Settlement Agreement and release do not release claims for (i) death, (ii)  
13 personal injury, (iii) damage to tangible property other than a Class Vehicle, or  
14 (iv) subrogation. Even if they later discover facts in addition to or different from  
15 those which they now know or believe to be true, Releasors fully, finally, and  
16 forever settle and release any and all legal claims against Releasees.

17 16. Upon issuance of the Final Approval Order and this Order and Final  
18 Judgment: (i) the Settlement shall be the exclusive remedy for Class members;  
19 (ii) Releasees shall not be subject to liability or expense of any kind to any Class  
20 member(s) for reasons related to the Action except as set forth herein; and (iii) Class  
21 members shall be permanently barred from initiating, asserting, or prosecuting any  
22 and all released claims against the Releasees.

23 17. All members of the Class who did not make a valid request for  
24 exclusion in the time and manner provided in the Class Notice are barred,  
25 permanently enjoined, and restrained from commencing or prosecuting any action,  
26 suit, proceeding, claim or cause of action in any jurisdiction or court against HMA,  
27 KMA, Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc. (also doing business as Hyundai Kia  
28 America Technical Center), Hyundai Motor Company, Kia Motors Corporation, all

1 affiliates of the Hyundai Motor Group or any other Releasee based upon, relating to,  
2 or arising out of, any of the Released Claims.

3 18. The Settlement Agreement, acts performed in furtherance of the  
4 Settlement Agreement, and documents executed in furtherance of the Settlement  
5 Agreement or the settlement set forth therein may not be deemed or used as  
6 evidence of an admission or other statement supporting: (a) the validity of any claim  
7 made by Plaintiffs, Settlement Class Members, or Class Counsel (including the  
8 appropriateness of class certification); (b) any wrongdoing or liability of the  
9 Releasees; or (c) any fault or omission of the Releasees in any court, administrative  
10 agency, or other proceeding.

11 19. Neither the Settlement Agreement (nor any Addendum thereto) shall be  
12 offered or be admissible in evidence against HMA, KMA, Hyundai America  
13 Technical Center, Inc. (also doing business as Hyundai-Kia America Technical  
14 Center), Hyundai Motor Company, Kia Motors Corporation, all affiliates of the  
15 Hyundai Motor Group, and/or their affiliates or cited or referred to in any action or  
16 proceeding, except in an action or proceeding that is in furtherance of its terms or  
17 brought to enforce its terms.

18 20. If this Order and Final Judgment is set aside, materially modified, or  
19 overturned by this Court or on appeal, and is not fully reinstated on further appeal,  
20 this Order and Final Judgment shall be deemed vacated and shall have no force or  
21 effect whatsoever.

22 21. Without affecting the finality of the Final Approval Order or this Order  
23 and Final Judgment in any way, the Court reserves continuing jurisdiction over  
24 matters relating to the Settlement, including, without limitation, the administration,  
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1 interpretation, effectuation and/or enforcement of the Settlement, the Settlement  
2 Agreement, and this Final Order and Judgment.

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5 DATED: June 10, 2021

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8 HON. JOSEPHINE L. STATON  
9 U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
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